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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

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TAGS: CASC, PREL, MARK, NU

SUBJECT: DEATHS OF AMCITS

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT. "NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS."

2. INITIAL CONNECTION OF PRIVATE AMERICAN GROUP WITH

REPORTED

11 JANUARY 1984, WAS FOR PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRIVATE ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY ROLE WAS

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LIMITED TO PROVIDING CONTACT. STAFF. [REDACTED] STAFF HAS INDICATED TO US THAT THEY DID NOT ENCOURAGE ACTIVITIES OF GROUP AND IN FACT ASKED THAT MATERIAL THEY BROUGHT FOR DONATION [REDACTED] ON THAT INITIAL TRIP (A LIMITED AMOUNT) BE RE-EXPORTED. THE GROUP DECLINED, SAYING THAT SHIPPING COSTS WERE IN EXCESS OF VALUE OF EQUIPMENT, AND ABANDONED THE MATERIAL. IT WAS CONFISCATED BY [REDACTED]

NO MISSION COMPONENT KNOWS OF ANY CONTACT BETWEEN PRIVATE AMERICAN GROUP AND NICARAGUAN COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES DURING INITIAL JANUARY TRIP.

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3. CONTACT BETWEEN PRIVATE AMERICAN GROUP AND NICARAGUAN COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES WAS REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHED IN NEW ORLEANS. POINT OF CONTACT WAS MARIO CALERO, AN EX-MARINE, PERMANENT RESIDENT OF NEW ORLEANS, AND COINCIDENTALLY BROTHER OF FDN PRESIDENT ADOLFO CALERO. MARIO CALERO IS NOT RPT NOT A MEMBER OF FDN, BUT ADVISED THE FDN OF THE EXISTENCE OF A PRIVATE AMERICAN GROUP DISPOSED TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT. THE GROUP WAS INVITED TO INSPECT FDN FACILITIES IN ORDER TO EVALUATE TRAINING NEEDS.

4. GROUP ARRIVED [REDACTED] MOST ARRIVED BY COMMERCIAL AIR, BUT ONE PILOTED A SINGLE ENGINE CESSNA AIRCRAFT, [REDACTED] WHICH CARRIED DONATED EQUIPMENT (WEB GEAR, PONCHO LINERS, BOOTS) FOR THE FDN, AS WELL AS A SMALL AMOUNT OF SPECIALIZED AIRBORNE EQUIPMENT FOR THE [REDACTED] BATTALION. THE [REDACTED] STAFF HAS NOT RPT NOT CONFIRMED RECEIPT OF ANY MATERIAL FROM THE GROUP. THEY VISITED SEVERAL FDN FACILITIES, ARRIVING IN THE FORWARD LOGISTICS BASE [REDACTED] THERE WAS NO CONTACT DURING THIS TIME WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL. A CONSCIOUS EFFORT WAS MADE TO AVOID SUCH CONTACT AND THE FDN WAS AWARE THAT THIS WAS EMBASSY POSITION.

5. IN INTERVAL BETWEEN 27 AUGUST AND 1 SEPTEMBER, GROUP REPORTEDLY WAS BRIEFED BY FDN STAFF SECTIONS AND REVIEWED FDN TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS. MORNING 1 SEPTEMBER, THEY MET WITH FDN AIR SECTION, WHICH HAD ASSEMBLED ALL FDN PILOTS [REDACTED] FOR THE MEETING, TO DISCUSS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED FOR AIR OPERATIONS (FOUR OF THE GROUP WERE REPORTEDLY EITHER FIXED OR ROTARY WING PILOTS). DURING COURSE OF MORNING MEETING, PLAN WAS DEVELOPED FOR DEMONSTRATION OF FDN AIR CAPABILITIES [REDACTED]

PLAN WAS IMPROVISED ON THE SPOT, AND NO [REDACTED] USG PERSONNEL WERE AWARE OF THE PLAN IN ADVANCE OF MISSION. NO [REDACTED] USG PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

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9. WHEN HELICOPTER DID NOT RETURN [REDACTED]  
CONCERN BEGAN TO MOUNT. VOLUNTEER GROUP LEFT  
[REDACTED] AT FIRST LIGHT ON 2 SEPTEMBER.  
[REDACTED] THEY SPENT THE NIGHT  
AT PRIVATE HOME OF AN FDN SYMPATHISER [REDACTED]  
THEY WERE INTERVIEWED BY CONSULAR OFFICER  
CONCERNING REPORTED DEATHS OF TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS.  
THIS WAS FIRST AND ONLY CONTACT WITH GROUP BY USG  
PERSONNEL DURING THEIR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER VISIT. GROUP  
DEPARTED [REDACTED] MORNING OF 3 SEPTEMBER, ONE  
BY COMMERCIAL AIR AND REMAINDER ABOARD THEIR PRIVATE  
AIRCRAFT.  
10. GROUP TOTALLED EIGHT, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] OF THE SIX MEMBERS OF THE  
PARTY WHO WERE PRESENT [REDACTED]  
TWO DIED AND FOUR RETURNED TO CONUS ON  
3 SEPTEMBER. THEIR IDENTITIES WERE REPORTED [REDACTED]

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11. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS CONCERNED AT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THERE HAS BEEN OFFICIAL USG COMMENT ON THIS INCIDENT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TWO PRIVATE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID SOME COMMENT.

WE BELIEVE THIS SORT OF DETAIL IS STILL A SUBJECT FOR NO COMMENT, AT LEAST UNTIL [REDACTED] ADDRESSES THE SUBJECT.

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Partially Declassified/Released on 5/6/87  
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by J. Regan, National Security Council

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